

**The Synaxis of Michael the Chief Commander,
and of the Other Bodiless Hosts
Which the Holy Church Celebrates on November 8**



St. Michael



St. Gabriel

All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, “sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation” (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Isaiah 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honoring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis, that is our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means “Who is like God?” and Gabriel means “God is mighty.” The number of angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that “thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of thousands attended upon Him” (Dan. 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels and Angels.

Rest from Labour. Wine and oil allowed.

Dismissal Hymn. Fourth Tone
Thou who wast raised up

SUPREME Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, * we, the unworthy, *
importune and beseech you * that by your supplications ye encircle us * in the
shelter of the wings of your immaterial glory, * guarding us who now fall down *
and cry to you with fervor: * Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, * as the great
marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

Kontakion. Second Tone

SUPREME Commanders of God and ministers of the Divine glory, guides of
men and leaders of the bodiless hosts: ask what is to our profit and for great
mercy, since ye are Supreme Commanders of the bodiless hosts.

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